



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Charleston District

News Release

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Corps hosts Folly Beach Groundbreaking

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CHARLESTON, S.C. --- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, the City of Folly Beach, and the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Folly Beach at noon Friday, May 20, for a beach renourishment project that the Corps is constructing this summer.

The \$12 million project will help protect the beach front property, and provide for recreational opportunities. When originally constructed in 1993, the project was estimated to provide \$1.9 million in average annual storm damage reduction benefits and an additional \$1.4 million annually in recreation benefits. Since the projects construction, the value of property and the number of beach users have risen, making the project even more beneficial. The State of South Carolina receives an economic impact of over \$5 billion from coastal tourism. More than 650,000 people visit Folly Beach each year. Folly Beach is also one of the most publicly accessible beaches in the Southeast.

During the 2004 hurricane season Folly Beach endured a series of attacks by five tropical storms and a strong northeast storm that impacted the beach with long lasting high wind and waves during an eight-week period.

As a result of the extraordinary hurricane season, Congress appropriated additional funding for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery through Public Law 84-99. The Charleston District decided to take that funding and combine it with the Construction General funding that would have been requested for the regular renourishment project in fiscal year 2006. By getting these funds this fiscal year, the Charleston District was able to save more than \$1 million in mobilization cost.

The project contractor is Weeks Marine of Covington, La. Work on the beach is scheduled to run until September. Approximately 2.3 million cubic-yards of sand will be placed onto Folly Beach from the Charleston County Park on the west side of Folly Island to a location west of the old U.S. Coast Guard facility

Speakers at the groundbreaking include: Mayor Vernon Knox, Mayor of Folly Beach; Rep. W.B. Scarborough, South Carolina State Representative; Sen. Chip Campsen, South Carolina State Senator; Lt. Col. Alvin B. Lee, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Mr. Thomas O'Rourke, Executive Director of CCPRC.